

ASTOR MARRIAGE SCORED IN PULPIT

Clergyman Who Officiated Is Emphatically Condemned.

REV. DR. MUIR GIVES VIEWS

He Assails the "Smart Set," and Says That the Middle Class Is the Hope of the Republic—Rev. Dr. McKenney Says the Sanctity of Marriage Is Endangered.

Branding the Force-Astor wedding as indecent, Newport society as a disgrace, and Reno a hotbed of unhappiness, brought about by wealth and mercenary ambitions, Rev. J. J. Muir, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, last night assailed for the first time the "smart set" and a safeguard against the impending danger of marriages of "convenience" for personal gain of luxury and position. He bitterly assailed the "smart set" of the country, and said that members of that class disregarded the sanctities of Christian teachings, which were recognized by even the heathen.

The Astor-Force alliance was used as an illustration of the "indecent" of the fashionable colonies, and the minister who performed the marriage service was warmly attacked for his part in the "most disgraceful of all American marriages."

Some Ministers Not Purchasable.

Dr. Muir spoke at length on the many alleged attempts made to "bribe" clergymen into performing the service, and lauded those of the ministry who refused to officiate. "It is evident that there are some things which money cannot buy," he said, "and it is with pride that I read of the number of clergymen whose consciences defied the bargaining of a millionaire. Preachers may be in need, but their ministries are not marketable. They are the willing to serve, but will not be bought."

Continuing, Dr. Muir said that society as a whole was turning up on the question of marriage and divorce. He said that only through the middle classes could the ideal of Christian life be reached. "The middle class is the hope of the republic," he said, "and it is to the class represented by Newport society for aid in this. Every day they fall lower, and by their acts disgrace themselves and their country, and defy all the teachings of morality. Such a condition is lamentable, but a fact nevertheless. Marriage is too sacred an institution to be subjected to the caprices of declining class."

Appeal to Parents.

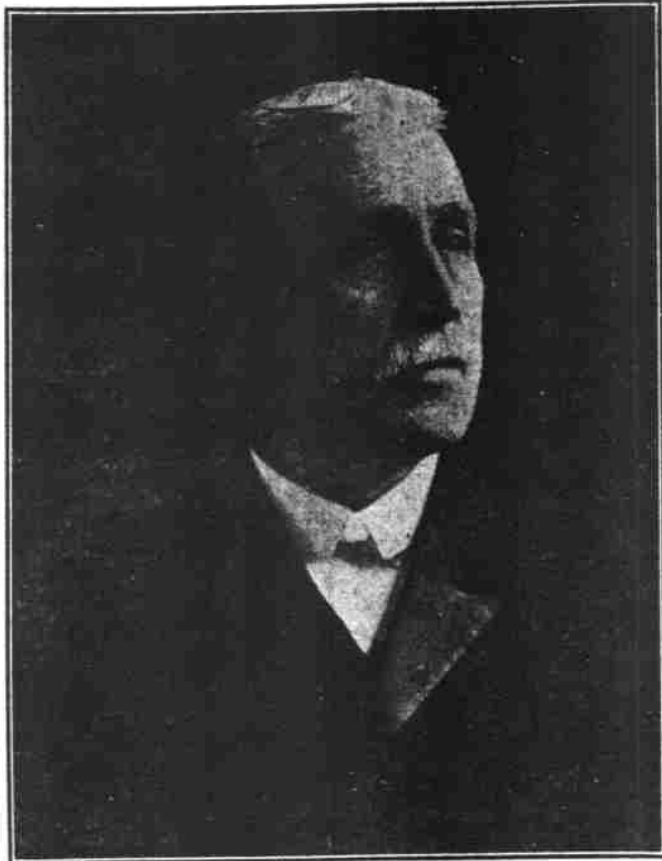
Declaring that the fathers of a century ago would turn in shame from the existing conditions today, Dr. Muir appealed to the parents for care in the instruction given their children regarding marriage. He said that the fear of being persecuted had spread over the country, but that it was a false position and one to be deplored.

"Where are old-time homes?" he demanded. "Where is the old-time family religion? I have seen you, I have seen your homes. I trust that God that time will come when persons seeking such an alliance as that of Astor will be launched by decent society and held up to the scorn of the world. Such an alliance is ungodly."

Dr. McKenney's Views.

At Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, Fifth and E streets northwest, the Rev. William L. McKenney preached on the "Relation of the church to the rich," and made the Force-Astor wedding an alleged basis of the danger of wealthiness to break down the sanctity of marriage. He condemned the marriage, and said that such alliances cause a disrespect for the marital ties. "I regret that a

CONDEMNS ASTOR-FORCE WEDDING.



REV. J. J. MUIR.

Who in his sermon yesterday severely criticized the clergyman who officiated at Newport wedding.

clergyman was found who would perform this disgraceful alliance," he said, "but the fact that many of the ministry refused the large fee offered for the performance of the service shows that marriage is too important to be purchased." In other churches throughout the city the Astor-Force wedding was denounced, and members of the fashionable Newport colony arraigned for supporting them.

bring people to church "is to advertise your church," there was a perceptible stir.

"I took the counsel of several ministers in the city (Providence), and I found that they thought, generally, as I did about the marriage," said Dr. Lambert today.

No Need to Explain.

"I see no necessity for any explanation or defense of my action in marrying Col. Astor," said Rev. Mr. Lambert. "I have been informed today that several members of church are indignant over the matter. That I expected. But I am gratified to believe that the majority, in fact the greater proportion, of our members approve of what I did. Today a number of the most prominent and influential persons in my congregation came forward voluntarily to congratulate me."

"Where I heard of one or two who opposed my act, four or five in person approved it. So evidently that proportion thinks I did right."

"In the Congregational Church there is no bishop or any other 'church head' to speak of. Ministers are elected and held accountable. We are independent as the heads of our respective churches. They may call me to account before the General Conference. That is the only body which may discipline me. But I have no fear of being called there. They will not dare to call me."

"Why? Because 50 per cent of the ministers of this church perform such marriages all the time." It is understood that he will be summoned before the General Conference of the Congregational Church to explain.

The minister avoided direct reference to the subject that fairly identified him in every mind. But when he declared his belief that one thing necessary to

SAYS POLICEMEN HELP CLERGYMAN TO GET "TRADE"

Rev. W. L. McKenney Finds New "Cappers."

CAMPAIGN IS GROWING

That even park policemen in the immediate neighborhood of City Hall are suspected of acting as "cappers" for G. J. S. Hunnicutt, the "marrying parson," is alleged by Rev. Dr. W. L. McKenney, pastor of the Wesley M. E. Church, who has entered upon a campaign against the system in vogue with certain so-called ministers of the Gospel of seeking matrimonial "business."

COMPLAINTS FOUR IN.

Charges that "runners" are employed by these self-styled parsons and that they are paid commissions on matrimonial "trade" have been heard at the City Hall from time to time. Never before, however, have the complaints been so numerous and the demands that the practice be brought to an end so strong and determined. The chief justice of the District Supreme Court has been asked to investigate the matter and put a stop to the practice by revoking the permits of those ministers who employ such methods.

On Saturday morning, when going through the park on his way to the City Hall, said Rev. Dr. McKenney yesterday, he was asked by a park policeman whether marriage licenses were issued at that place. The policeman, instead of giving the desired information, asked McKenney whether he had engaged a minister to perform the ceremony. McKenney said that his services had been secured for that purpose.

"I cannot think why the officer should ask such a question," said Dr. McKenney, "unless he probably is also in the employ of Hunnicutt."

De Vries Joins Fight.

Rev. Dr. De Vries, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, has assured Rev. Dr. McKenney of his support in the matter, and told him he would inform Bishop Harding upon his return to this city of the deplorable state of affairs and suggest his assistance in ridding the city of "marrying parsons." Rev. J. J. Muir, a well-known Baptist minister of the District, has also joined the movement, as have numerous other clergymen.

The campaign which is being waged by Rev. Dr. McKenney has attracted the attention of ministers elsewhere. As shown by a letter received by Rev. Dr. McKenney from Rev. R. L. Wright, of Hagerstown, Md., formerly of McKenney's church in this city. A copy of the letter follows:

"Dear Brother McKenney: I have learned from yesterday's Washington Herald that you are after Rev. G. J. S. Hunnicutt. I am glad to know that something is in motion along that line. He has prostituted one of the sacred ordinances of the church into a system of graft and avarice. While I was at McKenney's this gentleman was licensed to exhort. This was against my best judgment, though I did not oppose it. He was asked to resign in his application for one of my leading officials. He soon became insubordinate, and his license was not renewed. He asked for the license at the first time, stating that he had just secured some authority to exhort at the downtown missions. Yours truly, R. L. WRIGHT."

Will Push Campaign.

Rev. Dr. McKenney said last night he would bring the matter to the attention of the next meeting of the preachers and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, and that he would not rest until the existing abuse had been done away with.

Got a Good Fee.

"When I was asked to name my fee, I refused. I did not want it said afterward that I had acted for any certain sum of money. I told them that I always received \$1, or such additional money as the bridegroom gave voluntarily, and that I would not change it." And Dr. Lambert laughed and said: "It is natural to believe that Col. Astor gave more than \$1."

After the morning service, Dr. Lambert held a brief meeting for "members only," and thirty-five persons attended. At the conclusion of the "meeting," those who were questioned declared that only plans for an entertainment were mentioned.

The stewards of the church have been called together Wednesday night, but all insist this will be for perfecting plans for the entertainment.

"Ecclesiastical ostracism" is threatened upon Dr. Lambert by the ministers of the leading churches of Providence, regardless of denomination. His action will be discussed at the meetings of the Ministerial Union and the Federation of Protestant Churches to-morrow.

Said Rev. Asbury E. Krom, of Bennington Congregational Church: "I have made it a rule not to marry the guilty party to a divorce suit. At our meeting of all the Congregational ministers of the Providence churches to-morrow, I expect this Astor wedding will be discussed. I do not know of anything that we can do to Dr. Lambert; but ostracism may follow."

Rev. John A. Haynor, Pearl Street Baptist Church: "Every clergyman I meet expresses a desire to see the uniform divorce laws adopted in this country. I may be brought about by the public sentiment that follows Col. Astor's marriage. Not for his great fortune would I have officiated for Col. Astor. I am indeed sorry that they found a minister in the city of Providence. I am sure that it is the attitude of all Providence ministers. There may not follow direct ostracism, but there are certain ecclesiastical penalties which Rev. Mr. Lambert, if he does not know them, may soon realize."

DEATH RECORD.

WHITES.
Catherine C. Walker, 36, 321 M. ave. sw.
Josephine C. Lusk, 1, 228 N. ave. w.
Lillian T. Walker, 2, 27 T. ave. w.
Gustave Rose, 20, D. S. Soldiers' Home, D. C.
Ora Hale, 71, 1000 14th st. w.
Catherine C. Coffey, 2, 300 4th st. w.
Terrence D. Sullivan, 20, 222 13th st. w.
Henrietta J. Ide, 78, 122 Columbia rd. w.
Charlotte M. C. Covert, 12 months, 178 Kilbourne place w.

COLORED.
Martha Hill, 60, Home for Aged and Indigent.
Bessie G. Gordon, 78, Wash. Asylum Hosp.
Bella Perry, 25, 18th st. w.
James Alexander, 10, 10th st. w.
Daniel Turner, 72, 10th st. w., Anacostia.
Robert West, 28, Providence Hosp.

His Marriage License Stolen.

B. E. Frailley, of the Northumberland apartment house, reported to the police last night that while bowling in a downtown establishment Saturday a black wallet, containing a marriage license, \$15 in bills, and valuable papers, was stolen from him, which he had collected for years.

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RAILROAD BRIDGE

BUILT ON SUNDAY

South Washington in a Ferment Over Gang at Work.

If any resident in the immediate vicinity of Fourth and D streets slept last night, he will wake today to find a huge bridge spanning D street from the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks to the yards of the White Oak Coal Company.

Most of the people in that neighborhood, however, got no sleep last night. They were kept awake by the hammering and banging of a big force of workmen who smashed to smithereens the quiet of the Sabbath night in an endeavor to have the structure completed by morning. Almost until daybreak today they made the night air ring with their hammers, and South Washington could do nothing but look on. It was Sunday, and the courts, their only recourse, were closed.

Today the courts will be asked for a temporary injunction restraining the railroad company from doing anything further on the structure. More than likely, though, the bridge will be completed long before the necessary legal papers can be served. South Washington has been kept "mopping up" its indignation over the erection of the structure, and the railroad is triumphant, for a time, at least.

When Courts Were Closed.

Residents in that neighborhood discussed the "foolness," they called it, with which the railroad company had gone about the job. Work was started at 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon—after court had closed—and was continued all night and throughout the Sabbath when the courts were still closed. It will be finished this morning, and the railroad company, they say, will sit back and await the outcome of expected litigation on the part of residents in that vicinity. If the railroad wins, a permanent structure will be built in place of the present bridge, which is said to be only temporary and was built solely for the purpose of testing the case in court.

The men worked last night by the light of huge gasoline torches and electric lights. To say they were hustling would be putting it mildly. There was no shouting among the workmen—every one was busy on his own particular little job, and the work was with a rush and unusual speed until far into the night.

Public Hearing Not Granted.

The permit to build the bridge was granted the railroad by the Commissioners on March 20. At that time the South-west Washington Citizens' Association made vigorous protest against the erection of this structure and the establishment of a coal dump, claiming that it would decrease property values and impair the healthfulness of the neighborhood. A date for a hearing on the matter was canceled by the Commissioners, the citizens aver. The next thing they knew there was a big business-like-looking gang on the job at 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

There was some talk yesterday of arresting the workmen on charges of violating Sabbath regulations, but this action was deferred, pending the petition today for an injunction. Attorney W. G. Johnson represents the complaining citizens.

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